

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of

Listing of Claims

1-4. (cancelled)

5. (original) A method for controlling an engine coupled to a transmission having an input speed and an output speed, the method comprising:

 during a tip-out condition, controlling the engine speed to a synchronous speed, where the synchronous speed is based on a transmission state and the transmission output speed so that transmission input speed is at, or slightly below, the transmission output speed times the current gear ratio of the transmission; and when positive powertrain output torque is again applied, providing said powertrain output torque without delay.

6. (original) The method recited in Claim 5, wherein the engine is coupled to the transmission via a torque converter, wherein said torque converter is unlocked while maintaining a positive powertrain output and then locked after transitioning from said positive powertrain output to a negative powertrain output.

7. (cancelled)